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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,952	05/10/2006	Chad Andrew Le Fevre	PU030295	4966
24498	7590	07/21/2009	EXAMINER	
Thomson Licensing LLC			MENDOZA, JUNIOR O	
P.O. Box 5312			ART UNIT	
Two Independence Way			PAPER NUMBER	
PRINCETON, NJ 08543-5312			2423	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/578,952	Applicant(s) LE FEVRE ET AL.	
	Examiner JUNIOR O. MENDOZA	Art Unit 2423	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 May 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05/07/2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1 – 4, 6 – 10, 12 – 14 and 16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan et al (Patent No US 5,371,551) in view of Elliott et al (Patent No US 6,442,328). Hereinafter, referenced as Logan and Elliott, respectively.

Regarding **claim 1**, Logan discloses a method for operating a television apparatus to enable a recording function (See abstract, concurrent recording in circular buffer), the method comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the television apparatus, a user input selecting a designated video input source device connected to the television apparatus (Col. 3 lines 24-27 and 54-57 fig 1; turning on the device and implementing switching node 3 to select an input unit 4);

in response to the user input received by the television apparatus, establishing a connection between the designated video input source device and a digital recording device connected to the digital serial bus (Col. 1 lines 46-60, col. 3 lines 8-23 and figure 1; connecting input source unit 4 and memory system 5);

and further in response to the user input received by the television apparatus, causing the digital recording device to record digital content provided from the designated video input source device, wherein data may be directly transferred between the designated video input source device and the digital recording device (Col. 1 lines 46-60, col. 3 lines 54-57 and figure 1; continuously storing currently received content in a circular buffer).

However, it is noted that Logan fails to explicitly disclose a television apparatus connected to a digital serial bus to enable a recording function; and establishing a peer-to-peer connection between the designated video input source device and an external digital recording device connected to the digital serial bus.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Elliott discloses a television apparatus connected to a digital serial bus to enable a recording function (Col. 6 lines 6-21 figures 1 and 4; high performance serial bus connection);

and establishing a peer-to-peer connection between the designated video input source device and an external digital recording device connected to the digital serial bus (Col. 6 lines 6-21 figures 1 and 4; implementing IEEE 1394 to connect video input and recorder 200).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Logan by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Elliott, for the purpose of specifically applying a known technique of selecting a designated video input source device to improve the recording functions in a device for a predictable result of recording the content of the selected input, which allows users to virtually record the content from any input which has the capabilities to connect to a television.

Regarding **claim 2**, Logan and Elliott disclose the method of claim 1; moreover, Logan discloses that the user input includes a user pressing a single key of a remote control device (Col. 3 lines 24-27 and 54-57 fig 1; recording device 7 starts recording when the device is turn on and when the user switches from one input unit 4 to another which are all performed implementing a single command of remote control 13).

Regarding **claim 3**, Logan and Elliott disclose the method of claim 2; however, it is noted that Logan fails to explicitly disclose that the digital serial bus comprises an IEEE 1394 compliant bus.

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Elliott discloses that the digital serial bus comprises an IEEE 1394 compliant bus (Col. 6 lines 17-24 also exhibited on fig 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Logan by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Elliott, for the purpose of implementing a transmission interface which allows content to be transmitted fast and efficiently.

Regarding **claim 4**, Logan and Elliott disclose the method of claim 2; moreover, Logan discloses causing the digital recording device to continuously record video content provided from a tuning device of the television apparatus in response to user selection of the tuning device as the designated video input source device (Col. 1 lines 46-60, col. 3 lines 54-57 and figure 1; continuously storing currently received content in a circular buffer).

Regarding **claim 6**, Logan and Elliott disclose the method of claim 2; moreover, Logan discloses the step of displaying video content stored on the digital recording device on a display device associated with the television apparatus in response to user selection of the digital recording device as the designated video source device (Col. 1 lines 46-60, col. 4 lines 3-13 and figure 1; displaying content on display 10).

Regarding **claims 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12**, Logan and Elliott disclose all the limitations of claims 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6; therefore, claims 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 are rejected for the same reasons stated in claims 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, respectively.

Regarding **claims 13, 14 and 16**, Logan and Elliott disclose all the limitations of claims 1, 4 and 2; therefore, claims 13, 14 and 16 are rejected for the same reasons stated in claims 1, 4 and 2, respectively.

5. **Claims 5, 11 and 15** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Logan in view of Elliott further in view of Geer et al (Patent No US 6,788,882). Hereinafter, referenced as Geer.

Regarding **claim 5**, Logan and Elliott disclose the method of claim 4; moreover, Logan discloses causing the digital recording device to continuously record the video content provided from a tuning device of the television apparatus in a circular buffer (Col. 1 lines 46-60, col. 3 lines 54-57 and figure 1; continuously storing currently received content in a circular buffer).

However, it is noted that Logan and Elliott fail to explicitly disclose recording into a predefined buffer size of a storage medium of a digital recording device.

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Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor Geer discloses recording into a predefined buffer size of a storage medium of a digital recording device. (Col 12 lines 55-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Logan and Elliott by specifically providing the elements mentioned above, as taught by Geer, for the purpose of recording as much content as possible for the viewer, providing customer satisfaction since the user can record as much content as they want by deleting old content; moreover, the users would be capable of performing VCR-like functions.

Regarding **claims 11 and 15**, Logan, Elliott and Geer disclose all the limitations of claims 11 and 15; therefore, claims 11 and 15 are rejected for the same reasons stated in claim 5.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JUNIOR O. MENDOZA whose telephone number is (571)270-3573. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Koenig can be reached on (571)272-7296. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Junior O Mendoza
Examiner
Art Unit 2423

/J. O. M./
July 17, 2009

/Dominic D Saltarelli/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2421